

Attorney Docket No.  
23100.36

### III. REMARKS

#### A. Status of the Application

Claims 1, 6-17, 22, 27-36 and 40-43 are pending herein. Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1, 6-17, 22, 27-36 and 40-43 in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

#### B. Reply Filed on April 17, 2003

Applicants appreciate the courtesies of the Examiner extended during the telephone conferences of July 21 and July 24, 2003.

As discussed, Applicants respectfully submit that the reply filed on April 17, 2003 is fully responsive to the prior Office action. Contrary to the Office communication mailed June 26, 2003, independent claims 1, 22 and 40, as amended in the reply filed April 17, 2003, do read on the invention elected for prosecution pursuant to the Office action mailed February 7, 2002.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the reply filed April 17, 2003 is fully responsive to the prior Office action and respectfully request that the claimed subject matter be reconsidered pursuant to the reply filed April 17, 2003.

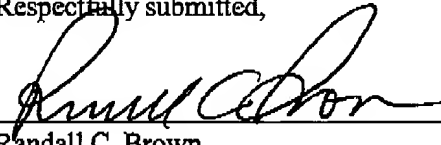
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C. Conclusion

As noted in the reply filed April 17, 2003, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 6-17, 22, 27-36 and 40-43 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 6-17, 22, 27-36 and 40-43 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/24/03

  
Randall C. Brown  
Registration No. 31,213  
Attorney for Applicants

HAYNES AND BOONE, L.L.P.  
901 Main Street, Suite 3100  
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789  
Tel: (214) 651-5242  
Fax: (214) 200-0802